

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 AID-20 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

IO-13 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 PA-03 PRS-01 AGR-20 HEW-08 RSR-01 /157 W

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R 202120Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2417

INFO SECTRES WASHDC

JUSTICE WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 2414

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: NARCOTICS - LARGEST MARIJUANA SEIZURE IN JAMAICAN HISTORY

TREASURY FOR CUSTOMS WASHDC AND MIAMI; JUSTICE FOR DEA WASHDC
AND MIAMI; DEPT PASS AID/OPS

REF: KINGSTON 2369

1. REFTEL PROVIDES PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON A MARIJUANA
SEIZURE MADE BY THE JAMAICAN NARCOTICS UNIT ON 16 JULY 1973.
AFTER ACTION REPORTS SHOW THE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL AND CONFIRMED
FIGURES:

- A. TOTAL BAGS BURNED AT SITE
- B. TOTAL BAGS SEIZED FOR EVIDENCE 1,144
- C. AVERAGE WEIGHT OF EACH BAG 50 POUNDS
- D. TOTAL SEIZURE - BAGS 1,669
- TOTAL SEIZURE - WEIGHT 83,450 POUNDS
- F. NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED 12

2. ALL PERSONS ARRESTED WERE JAMAICAN CITIZENS. THEY ARE AS
FOLLOWS:
VINCENT JONES, 18; KEBLE MILLER 24; EVAN ASHMEDE, 17; GLADSTONE
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SIMPSON, 20; ERIC CRAIG, 18; DENNIS EDWARDS, 22; LINFORD SIMPSON,

18; HERMAN MARTIN, 18; BASIL THOMPSON, 17; KENNETH ELLIS, 18;
ROBERT WHORM, 18; AND KEITH GREEN, 17.

3. POLICE INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE 12 YOUTHS ARRESTED WERE HIRED BY JAMAICAN MIDDLEMEN AT \$40.00 PER NIGHT PER PERSON TO GUARD THE CACHE. TRADITIONALLY, EACH MARIJUANA FARMER KEEPS HIS OWN HARVEST HIDDEN AWAY UNTIL IT IS PURCHASED IN PART OR IN BULK BY LOCAL OR EXPORT MIDDLEMEN. A CACHE OF THIS SIZE INDICATES THE ENTIRE SHIPMENT WAS SOLD AND THE FARMERS RECEIVED A DOWNPAYMENT. RELIABLE INFORMANTS REPORT A CASH LOSS TO JAMAICAN EXPORTERS OF \$125,000.00 (US\$137,500.00). IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THIS SEIZURE REPRESENTS A YEAR'S WORK FOR 75 TO 90 FARMING FAMILIES AND A TOTAL LOSS TO FARMERS AND MIDDLEMEN OF 1.7 MILLION JAMAICAN DOLLARS. THE ESTIMATED US WHOLESALE VALUE OF THIS SEIZURE EXCEEDS 16.5 MILLION DOLLARS.

4. INFORMANT INFORMATION CONFIRMS REPORTS THAT THIS ENTIRE SEIZURE WAS DESTINED FOR US SHORES. FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION CONTINUES IN AN ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY JAMAICANS AND AMERICANS INVOLVED IN THIS ORGANIZED EFFORT. THE NEW JAMAICAN UNIT PREVIOUSLY SCOFFED AT BY THE MARIJUANA TRADE AS INEFFECTIVE AND A WINDOW DRESSING TO APPEASE US INTERESTS, HAS TAKEN ON NEW MEANING. PRODUCERS ARE MAKING NEW EFFORTS TO HIDE THEIR CROPS, MIDDLEMEN ARE CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE AND US BUYERS ARE MEETING A WALL OF SILENCE.
SLATER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, MARIJUANA, DRUG SEIZURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KINGST02414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730721/aaaaaaxl.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 KINGSTON 2369
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <29-Jan-2002 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS - LARGEST MARIJUANA SEIZURE IN JAMAICAN HISTORY TREASURY FOR CUSTOMS WASHDC AND MIAMI; JUSTICE FOR DEA WASHDC
TAGS: SNAR, JM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005